



**FY 2013**

## **Annual Interpretive Plan**

**Vicksburg National Military Park**  
**Vicksburg, Mississippi**



**VICKSBURG**  
**SESQUICENTENNIAL**  
**1862-1863 - 2012-2013**

# FY 2013 ANNUAL INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Vicksburg National Military Park

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# Introduction

Created by act of Congress in 1899 “In order to commemorate the campaign, siege, and defense of Vicksburg, and to preserve the history of the battles and operations of the siege and defense on the ground where they were fought and carried on. . .”, Vicksburg National Military Park is now in the midst of the Sesquicentennial commemorations and observances of those events of 1862 and 1863 which proved to be the turning point of the American Civil War.

This Annual Interpretive Plan is promulgated in accordance with the park’s primary Interpretive planning document, the Long Range Interpretive Plan (June 2010), and covers programs, activities, exhibits, and other endeavors of the Interpretive Section of the park’s Operations Division for fiscal year 2013. Together with the Interpretive Database, the Annual Interpretive Plan forms the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP) for Vicksburg National Military Park.

## Interpretive Mandate and Missions

“...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

*-NPS Organic Act, 1916*

“National parks are among the most remarkable places in America for recreation, learning, and inspiration. Interpretive programs are the methods the Service uses to connect people to their parks, with opportunities for all visitors to form their own intellectual, emotional, and physical connections to the meanings and values found in the parks’ stories. Facilitating those opportunities through effective interpretive and educational programs will encourage the development of a personal stewardship ethic and broaden public support for preserving and protecting park resources so that they may be enjoyed by present and future generations.”

*-Chapter 7, Interpretation & Education, NPS Management Policies, 2006*

“In administering Vicksburg National Military Park, the Secretary shall interpret the campaign and siege of Vicksburg from April 1862 to July 4, 1863, and the history of Vicksburg under Union occupation during the Civil War and Reconstruction.”

*-VNMP Enabling Legislation, as amended October 18, 1990*

“Through the preservation and interpretation of its cultural, natural, and historical resources, VNMP employees and its partners provide opportunities for people to connect to this piece of history, enhancing their learning and personal experiences.”

*-VNMP Mission Statement, LRIP, 2010*



# Purpose and Significance

Ideally, the criteria for creation of or designation as a National Park should be of the strictest nature, i.e., of such superlative natural beauty or significance that its preservation and access should be assured in perpetuity; or, in the case of those areas qualifying by historic criteria, of such significance that American, or even world history was greatly affected by the event or events that took place at that location. Vicksburg certainly qualifies in application of the latter standard. The surrender of Vicksburg to Union General Ulysses S. Grant in 1863, coupled with the concurrent Union victory at Gettysburg, clearly and concisely marked the turning point of the American Civil War. Although the war would last another 21 months before the Northern forces prevailed and the Union preserved, a Confederate victory at Vicksburg and/or Gettysburg would have meant the destruction of the nation that had formerly been and is today the United States of America.

In the process of Interpretive planning, each park sets forth in its Long Range Interpretive Plan statements of purpose and significance, and uses these as the cornerstone upon which to build its Interpretive programming and services. The Vicksburg National Military Park's Long Range Interpretive Plan states the following:

## Vicksburg National Military Park Purpose

Congress established VNPA on February 21, 1899, "to commemorate the campaign and siege and defense of Vicksburg, and to preserve the history of the battles and operations of the siege and defense on the ground where they were fought and were carried on. . ."

In July 1862, Congress enacted legislation through an Omnibus Act, initiating the establishment of national cemeteries, "for the burial of deceased soldiers and sailors" . . .which included Vicksburg National Cemetery.

On September 17, 1990, Congress further directed the Secretary of the Interior to "interpret the campaign and siege of Vicksburg from April 1862 to July 4, 1863, and the history of Vicksburg under Union occupation during the Civil War and Reconstruction."

## Vicksburg National Military Park Significance Statements

- Vicksburg's topography reveals unique features of steep ridges and ravines, loess terrain, and 200-foot bluff s, located on an oxbow of the Mississippi River. Though the river's course has changed, many of the land attributes and those of the overall Vicksburg campaign landscape persist today, identifying the area as a focus for settlement and a point from which to control the river.

- Control of the Mississippi River which supported and enhanced commerce throughout the nation and facilitated transport of essential military supplies was a strategic objective of both armies and defined the Western Campaign of the Civil War. Simultaneous Union victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg in July 1863 marked a decisive turning point in the Civil War. • Vicksburg's crossroads of river, rail, and highway combined with imposing defenses and a critical strategic objective, produced one of the most complex and protracted engagements of the Civil War involving joint operations between the Army and Navy, overland and over-water troop movement, and diversion, siege, and defense tactics.
- Accomplishments of the U.S. Colored Troops in the Vicksburg Campaign proved their resolve and ability to effectively fight, which resulted in an ensuing surge of enlistment and respect for their contributions.
- Following the siege of Vicksburg, the Union garrison that remained used Vicksburg as a base of operations for raids, expeditions, commerce, and communication that assisted Union operations for the remainder of the war.
- The *U.S.S. Cairo* is the only surviving city-class gunboat constructed using the most advanced technology of the era, including steam propulsion, ironclad armor, and shallow-draft design. This technology changed the strategy and tactics of naval warfare on western rivers and was essential to the Union fleet which aided in securing control of the Mississippi River.
- Vicksburg's society was transformed by war, enduring changes that ranged from deprivation and destruction of a prosperous community to liberation of formerly enslaved people.
- Reconstruction efforts following the war were reflected in changes occurring in regional and national politics, economies, and society as a whole. Vicksburg became a microcosm of these changes and consequences.
- The monuments at Vicksburg comprise one of the largest collections of significant outdoor art in the state and one of the most extensive in the world. Representing the states involved and through their intricate symbolism, they commemorate the campaign, siege, and defense of Vicksburg. Commemoration continues today as a result of national reunification.
- Vicksburg National Cemetery honors service men and women of several wars by properly caring for their remains. It contains the most Union Civil War soldiers' graves in the country including many of U.S. Colored Troops and those of unknown soldiers. The cemetery provides opportunities for personal connections with those who died during events that have shaped the present-day nation.

- VNMP is one of the first five national military parks established through the steadfast efforts of Union and Confederate veterans who experienced war firsthand over its grounds. It preserves a memorial owed to faithful soldiers and sailors, and perpetuates their history as permanent object lessons for the benefit of present and future generations, both nationally and internationally.
- As a piece of public domain, VNMP, with its natural, cultural, and historical resources, today plays a vital role in our nation's heritage and provides a place of peace, reflection, enjoyment, and community engagement.

## Interpretive Themes

Over the past twenty years, the Interpretive philosophy of the National Park Service has gravitated towards a thematic approach in telling a park's story. The rationale for this has been that a wider audience may be better reached and more personal connections made between the visitor and the resource if monolithic or complex stories are broken down into different genres and perspectives. It is also hoped that this will appeal to a more diverse audience, as national demographics, ethnicity and socio-economic changes occur in the American population.

This issue was particularly underscored for Civil War battlefield units of the National Park Service, who, in the late 1990s, found themselves being criticized by some scholars and members of Congress for being too singular in their interpretive scope, and focusing strictly on their mandated stories of the battles, as stipulated in their enabling legislation. In 1998, and again in 2001, the NPS held a series of conferences called "*Holding the High Ground - Principles and Strategies for Managing and Interpreting Civil War Battlefield Landscapes*" and a symposium held at Ford's Theater in 2000 titled "*Rally on the High Ground*"

The result of all of the above was the directive to the NPS, and subsequently to all Civil War sites, to develop and implement a series of interpretive themes that would be inclusive of not only the military stories of each park, but also the civilian aspects and perspective, socio-economic conditions and differences, causal effects – specifically the institution of slavery, and long-term effects of the war, through Reconstruction and up to the modern era Civil Rights movement. The National Park Service has titled their official observance and commemoration of the Sesquicentennial as "*150 Years, Civil War to Civil Rights*".

In the formulation of their interpretive themes, especially for the Sesquicentennial and/or development of Long Range Interpretive Plans, Civil War parks, including Vicksburg, were given a set of NPS national themes from "*Holding the High Ground*" to use as a matrix and template in the development and implementation of park themes and subthemes.

In compliance with the above directive from the Washington office, Vicksburg developed a series of themes and subthemes in our Long Range Interpretive Plan that future interpretive planning and programming were to be based upon and clearly reflect. Through the

utilization of these themes, park management expects that our interpretive programs, exhibits, and outreach efforts will become more inclusive, reach a larger and more non-traditional audience, and attract a more diverse demographic, including historically underserved groups, and allow these visitors to make a personal connection with the resource and understand the significance of the park story. As these themes will be constantly referred to for the remainder of this plan, I include those stated in the LRIP below:

## **Vicksburg Interpretive Themes**

Primary interpretive themes are those ideas or concepts that every visitor should understand. They are the key ideas through which the park's nationally significant resource meanings and values are conveyed to the public. These themes provide the foundation for planned park experiences including interpretive programs, interpretive media and partnerships that support the delivery of the interpretive program. The themes do not include everything interpreted at the park, but rather the ideas that are critical to a visitor's understanding of the park's significance. All interpretive efforts should relate to one or more of the themes and each theme should be addressed in the overall interpretive program.

VNMP invites all visitors to explore the park and become immersed in its multi-faceted history from the American Civil War through the Reconstruction Era. Through this direct and personal experience, visitors will have opportunities to make personal connections to the park -- its resources and their inherent meanings; develop an understanding and appreciation for the difficult moments our Nation and its citizens have endured; and, discover why this national park is important to 21st century Americans and the international community. VNMP themes are listed below; the themes are numbered for easy reference.

## **Overall Interpretive Theme**

The Vicksburg campaign and subsequent period of Union occupation through Reconstruction reveal complexities in executing a war and rebuilding a community.

## **Primary Interpretive Themes**

### **The Military Experience: Strategy, Tactics, Technology and Humanity**

- The Vicksburg campaign encompassed a complex and coordinated regional effort to control the Mississippi River. Success at Vicksburg achieved the Union's major objective of splitting the Confederacy in two and encircling it. In addition, the Union's simultaneous victories in Vicksburg, Mississippi and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania signaled the turning point of the American Civil War.



### **Sub-themes:**

- The Anaconda Plan is attributed to General Winfield Scott, who proposed the strangling of the Confederacy by isolating it from its external markets and sources of war material. The ensuing blockade of the southern coasts and mastery of the Mississippi River culminated in the surrender of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863 and Port Hudson, Louisiana on July 9, 1863.
- Pemberton's Headquarters provides a glimpse into the workings of a Confederate Headquarters where strategies were developed and decisions made, including the decision to surrender Vicksburg on July 3, 1863.
- The July 4, 1863, surrender of Vicksburg resulted in significant losses for the Confederacy including the surrender of 30,000 Confederate defenders; the loss of 11% of Confederate artillery assets; and, coupled with the fall of Port Hudson five days later, the loss of immediate access to logistical support (manpower and supplies) from Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas, due to the Union gaining complete control of the Mississippi River.
- The accomplishments of the U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) during the Vicksburg Campaign at Port Hudson and Milliken's Bend demonstrated the resolve and ability of former slaves and freedmen to fight for their freedom. The attention received by the actions of the USCT resulted in a surge of enlistments. Ironically, while these events were pivotal in demonstrating to Union politicians and soldiers alike that USCT were loyal and effective supporters and defenders of the Union, USCT soldiers experienced outright hostility and ill-will. Many Northern soldiers did not want to associate with USCT on terms of equality.
- On both the national and local level, the utilization of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) during the Vicksburg campaign had a major influence on prisoner of war policy and prisoners of war (POWs), through the termination of the parole and trade system practiced by the Union and Confederate Armies. This change would have far reaching impacts. USCT and their white officers were not given the same treatment accorded white POW soldiers surrendering to Confederate forces. The enlisted USCT soldiers were classified as slaves in rebellion, and if not killed outright, they were placed back into bondage. Surviving evidence indicates that some USCT officers were shot, some sent to a POW camp. Deprivation and suffering was commonplace in all POW camps - neither side could adequately maintain enough foodstuffs to support the military, civilians and prisoners of war.
- The Vicksburg campaign is the culminating point in a series of campaigns that linked political, strategic, operational, and the tactical art of war. It is used as a

model for present-day military operations and studies, including Operation Desert Storm.

- The Vicksburg campaign occurred during a period of significant evolutionary advances in technology, resulting in major changes in the conduct of war.

#### Sub-Themes:

- Naval aspects of the campaign equaled those of the army and demonstrated ingenuity and innovation. The Union planned to use the *U.S.S. Cairo* to assist with the Vicksburg siege. However, advanced technology intervened, and the gunboat was sunk by a new device – an underwater mine. A casualty of war, the *U.S.S. Cairo* stayed on the muddy bottom of the Yazoo River from 1862 until its salvage and raising in 1964.
- Preservation of the *U.S.S. Cairo* has given the world an ‘accidental time capsule,’ providing countless artifacts and information on the gunboat and its crew.

### Siege and Fall of Vicksburg

- Civilians in Vicksburg endured a 47-day siege, an ordeal bringing out the fortitude and resilience of individuals to survive no matter the cost.

#### Sub-Themes:

- The civilian population of urban Vicksburg endured two occupations:
  - While the 1862 arrival of Confederate troops to construct fortifications on Vicksburg’s river bluffs offered residents increased protection, their presence stretched community resources. Later, as the Union Army pressed closer to the City’s defenses, the Confederate Army commandeered homes to support the war effort.
  - Following the Confederate surrender on July 4, 1863, the Union Army occupied Vicksburg as a conquered city and military base of operations until 1865; and later as a Federal garrison town where troops enforced the government’s reconstruction laws, policies and social experiments until 1875.
- The Union Army and Navy continually bombarded Confederate military emplacements, supply depots, and headquarters within the city during the siege of Vicksburg. Seeking refuge, residents dug caves into the hills and

ravines throughout the city, and took many items from their homes to give some semblance of comfort. Although few residents were killed during the siege, many city buildings were badly damaged or destroyed.

- During the siege, the fate of all residents was uncertain. Tension, anxiousness and apprehension permeated all levels of white Vicksburg society as the Union Army advanced closer to Vicksburg. Enslaved Vicksburgers quietly monitored the success of the Army with carefully concealed enthusiasm and hope that freedom was near. In some instances, historical records illustrate that some enslaved Vicksburgers risked everything to support Union Army efforts.
- The Vicksburg campaign was the catalyst for reshaping black/white relationships in the Mississippi Valley. For enslaved Vicksburgers, Confederate General Pemberton's surrender to Union General Grant on July 4, 1863 represented the realization of the Emancipation Proclamation; and, for all residents reconstruction began. President Lincoln's reconstruction policies were implemented by the occupying Union Army still at war.

### **The Occupation of Vicksburg**

- The military occupation of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863 and the emancipation of enslaved residents, unleashed a political battle over state sovereignty, civil rights, and the power of government to remake and police society; these struggles became iconic for the nation. The Union Army occupied Vicksburg from 1863-1875.

#### **Sub-themes:**

- During the Civil War, 30,000 refugees came to Vicksburg to seek the protection of the Union Army. General Grant requested Army Chaplain John Eaton, of the 27th Ohio Infantry to organize freedmen's camps and put 30,000 thousand black refugees back to work in Vicksburg. Eaton's pioneer efforts during the Civil War set the groundwork for the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Freedmen's Bureau) at the war's end. The Bureau sought to improve the life of all wartime victims by setting up the first public schools in Vicksburg, negotiating written labor agreements between workers and plantation owners, and providing representation in court cases. The legacy of the Freedmen's Bureau in Vicksburg was mixed. In Vicksburg and throughout the South, the Freedmen's Bureau operated for five years following the Civil War.
- During Vicksburg's early period of occupation, gangs, lawlessness, and fear were part of the everyday life of Vicksburgers black and white. While Vicksburgers had experienced reconstruction first hand since July 4, 1863, the surrender at Appomattox, VA ended the Civil War and signaled a new phase for the Country. The re-establishment of Vicksburg's civilian government

began on July 1, 1865; and a larger Union Army military presence would struggle to maintain an uneasy peace.

## **Reconstruction Period**

- From 1865 – 1875, the Union Army, other Federal agencies and the Vicksburg, Mississippi civilian government struggled to find solutions to re-establish social and economic order after war. Vicksburg, Mississippi provides insight into the challenges, changes and consequences faced by residents and public officials during this period of American history.

### **Sub-themes:**

- African Americans faced an unknown social environment that potentially offered new opportunities, but more frequently evidenced uncompromising racism. Some achievements include access to education, elected office, property, civil rights, and marriage. Vicksburg's Court House records reflect many marriages, a legal institution previously forbidden by law. African American Vicksburgers also suffered setbacks through the loss of civil rights by vigilante groups and government representation. White residents confronted societal change as well; former slaves were now social equals.
- Outside the City of Vicksburg in the more rural sections of Warren County, the complexities of rebuilding agricultural with a new type of contractual labor system - "sharecropping" - was initiated by local planters, army officials and representatives of the Freedmen's Bureau. Much of the workforce came from the camps in Vicksburg. Efforts to restart the local economy and provide a wage for the newly freed were fraught with challenges, misunderstanding, and hoaxes.
- Vicksburg's Court House records, Emma Balfour's journal – and other journals, diaries and letters written by residents, local newspapers and official US Army and Freedmen's Bureau records clearly attest to a period of radical change and continuing crises. After four years of war, new opportunities for former slaves were pursued in an atmosphere of chaos, distrust and continued racial discrimination by some – in spite of the presence of US Army and the arrival of agencies legislated to bring about social and political change through Presidential and later Congressionally directed Reconstruction policies.
- Depending on one's perspective, "it was the best of times; and it was the worst of times" in post-Civil War Vicksburg. The political career of Peter Crosby, a Union Army veteran and former slave, exemplifies both hope and tragedy amidst the deep post-Civil War tensions in Vicksburg. Peter Crosby was elected Sheriff in 1873 intensifying racial tensions. Challenges to Sheriff Crosby's authority by vigilantes resulted in a race riot in December 1874 – a conflict that crossed the downtown area into the historic Civil War battlefield



and beyond. Many were killed and numerous Vicksburgers were missing and unaccounted for. This tragedy deeply affected the community and the surrounding region.

- The occupation of Vicksburg by Federal troops enabled the formation of African American communities and the emergence of new social relationships in the region. During the reconstruction period, Vicksburg's Court House records reveal the reunification of families formerly separated under slavery and numerous marriages performed. African American churches became a centerpiece in the lives of the newly freed and separate churches were established in the community.
- The withdrawal of Federal troops from Vicksburg in 1875 signaled the return of home rule; and, consequently a return to the repressive society known to African American Vicksburgers before the Civil War. For almost one hundred years, white Southern Democrats held to power until the Civil Rights Movement in the mid-1960's set the stage for sweeping social and political change.

### Commemoration

- Vicksburg National Cemetery and the monuments within VNMP exhibit the commitment of a grateful nation and its effort to honor sacrifices of soldiers and sailors, whose devotion to duty and shared war-time experiences, transcend the boundaries of North and South, reflecting a Nation reunited.

#### Sub-theme:

- Immediately following the Civil War, even in death, equal treatment did not occur. Today, Vicksburg National Cemetery honors all Americans who have given their lives in the service of this Country.
  - Burials at Vicksburg National Cemetery (VNC) reflected the social and political issues triggering the Civil War. USCT Soldiers were buried in separate sections at Vicksburg National Cemetery; while Confederate soldiers (approximately 5,000 men) were buried in "Cedar Hill Cemetery", the City's cemetery, located in another section of Vicksburg, MS.
  - Depending on the era, national days of honor such as Memorial/Decoration Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day were sometimes opened to all and at other times segregated. During WWII the National Park Service adopted a policy of segregated services for the families honoring soldiers buried in Vicksburg National Cemetery; this practice was discontinued late in the 20th century.

- Vicksburgers of African American descent conducted some of their first public gatherings in Vicksburg National Cemetery. Their events were largely ignored by other residents, as the gatherings were held in a cemetery honoring 19,000 Union war dead – including United States Colored Troop soldiers. These Vicksburgers’ celebrated their freedom and freedom of speech by reading the Emancipation Proclamation; and, in so doing honored all who gave their lives for freedom and equality.

### **Stewardship: ‘Transforming the Environment’**

- Today VNPA and Vicksburg National Cemetery are layered landscapes with historically significant features and commemorative elements from the 19th – 21st century. Guided by National Park Service policies, ongoing research, and new preservation methods and techniques, this landscape brings together the complexities of interpreting ongoing preservation efforts and the experiences of soldiers and residents during the campaign, siege, and occupation of Vicksburg, MS.

## **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitor experience goals describe what opportunities for physical, intellectual, and emotional experiences should be available for visitors to VNMP and Vicksburg National Cemetery (VNC). These experiences will be available to visitors of all abilities, including those with visual, auditory, mobility, or cognitive impairments.

Visitors to Vicksburg National Military Park will have opportunities to:

- Drive through the battlefield and cemetery; locate a point of interest or person buried in the cemetery; if able walk to that area; and make a personal connection to the purpose and significance of the park.
- Learn the mission of the VNPA, Vicksburg National Cemetery and the National Park Service; and, have the opportunity to become engaged in the preservation of the park through stewardship projects sponsored by the park, park partners and/or participate in Volunteer-In-Parks opportunities.
- Contemplate, relax, and enjoy park resources safely and without pressure.
- Have their necessary comfort needs met.
- Acquire information and material to help them learn about themes before, during and after their visit.
- Experience the park resources regardless of physical ability.

- Find their way around the park without the need for assistance.
- Interact with the park staff informally and formally in a way that respects their personal and civil rights and their expectation to receive courteous treatment and factual information.
- Have opportunities to acquire a more comprehensive understanding of the issues and impacts surrounding the Civil War and the experiences of soldiers and residents – enslaved and free in Vicksburg, MS during the Civil War and Reconstruction eras.

## 2013 Interpretive Staffing, Personnel & Duty Assignments

### Permanent Staff and/or FTE:

- **GS-11 Supervisory Park Ranger:** Duties and responsibilities involve all direct supervision of the Interpretive Section personnel and activities, scheduling, payroll, programming, hiring, training, performance appraisals, budget, special events, planning, operations and visitor services throughout the park. Also serves as park liaison and coordinator for the Vicksburg Licensed Battlefield Guides, and park Volunteer Coordinator. During leave, training or other situations resulting in staff shortages, supervisor will backfill Park Rangers in operating park venues, information desks, presenting programs, and other front-line interpretive duties. Additional responsibilities include formulation and implementation of projects and special initiatives and all other ancillary duties as assigned by the Superintendent and/or Chief of Operations.
- **GS-09 Park Ranger:** Serves as site manager for the *U.S.S. Cairo* and Museum. Duties and responsibilities include the preparation and presentation of interpretive programs, exhibits, posters, site bulletins, living history events and programs, and other interpretive activities and visitor services. He assists GS-05 Park Guides, Student Trainees and Seasonal employees in the preparation and presentation of interpretive programs and written materials. Also assists in the training and mentoring of Student Trainees and Seasonal staff. Primarily responsible for insuring day to day operation and all visitor services, including audio/visual equipment, exhibits, formal/informal interpretive programs and roving interpretation at the *U.S.S. Cairo* and Museum, Vicksburg National Cemetery, and adjacent field sites (i.e. Fort Hill and Stockade Redan) in the northern end of the main park resource. Also serves as park liaison and coordinator for Eastern National, and as the alternate Historic Weapons Coordinator and Safety Officer. Additional responsibilities include formulation and implementation of projects and special initiatives and all other ancillary duties as assigned by the Superintendent, Chief of Operations, and/or Supervisory Park Ranger for Interpretation.

- GS-09 Park Ranger:** Currently serves as site manager for the park Visitor Center (VC). Duties and responsibilities include the preparation and presentation of interpretive programs, exhibits, posters, site bulletins, living history events and programs, and other interpretive activities and visitor services. He assists GS-5 Park Guides, Student Trainees and Seasonal employees in the preparation and presentation of interpretive programs and written materials. Also assists in the training and mentoring of Student Trainees and Seasonal staff. Primarily responsible for insuring day to day operation and all visitor services, including audio/visual equipment, exhibits, formal/informal interpretive programs and roving interpretation at the VC, Living History Area, and adjacent field sites (i.e. Railroad Redoubt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Texas Redan, Battery DeGolyer, and Jackson Road complex) in the southern end of the main park resource. Also serves as park liaison and coordinator for college and university outreach and recruiting, as a member of the Park Safety Committee, and as the primary Historic Weapons Coordinator and Safety Officer. Additional responsibilities include formulation and implementation of projects and special initiatives and all other ancillary duties as assigned by the Superintendent, Chief of Operations, and/or Supervisory Park Ranger for Interpretation.
- GS-05 Park Guide:** Serves as front line Interpreter at all park venues, special events, and off-site programs. Primary duties and responsibilities include staffing visitor contact/information desks at VC and *U.S.S. Cairo* Museum, operating the venues (audio/visual equipment, computers, phones, etc.), safeguarding exhibits, answering visitor inquiries about the park, the Vicksburg Campaign and the Civil War, and rendering other such visitor services as required. As primary point of contact he also serves as first responder to medical and other emergencies and for monitoring and maintaining a safe environment at staffed venues for visitors and employees. He also presents ranger talks, walks and programs for visitors, groups, and schools (both on and off-site); and engages in informal and roving interpretation throughout the park. Additional duties include park publications inventory and alternate Historic Weapons Coordinator and Safety Officer. He assists Supervisory Park Ranger and Park Rangers in training and mentoring of Student Trainees and Seasonal staff, as well as all other ancillary duties as assigned by the Superintendent, Chief of Operations, and/or Supervisory Park Ranger for Interpretation.
- GS-04 Student Trainee (Pathways):** Currently filling a 1.0 FTE GS-05 Park Guide position, and performing duties and responsibilities concomitant to full-performance levels for that grade and position. These include serving as front line Interpreter at all park venues, special events, and off-site programs. Primary duties and responsibilities include staffing visitor contact/information desks at VC and *U.S.S. Cairo* Museum, operating the venues (audio/visual equipment, computers, phones, etc.), safeguarding exhibits, answering visitor inquiries about the park, the Vicksburg Campaign and the Civil War, and rendering other such visitor services as required. As primary point of contact he also serves as first responder to medical and other emergencies and for monitoring and maintaining a safe environment at staffed venues for visitors and employees. He also presents ranger talks, walks and programs for visitors, groups, and schools (both on and off-site); and engages in informal and



roving interpretation throughout the park. Additional duties include managing park internet social media sites, and he serves on the park Safety Committee. During the Summer, 2013 season, he will serve as the Lead Living History staff person, and will directly oversee the 40 hour per week Living History programs, two Living History Seasonal Park Guides, and up to a dozen Living History Volunteers-in-Parks (VIPs) who participate in the annual summer program. He assists the Supervisory Park Ranger and Park Rangers in training and mentoring of Seasonal staff and Living History volunteers, as well as all other ancillary duties as assigned by the Superintendent, Chief of Operations, and/or Supervisory Park Ranger for Interpretation.

- **GS-04 Student Trainee (Pathways):** Currently filling a 1.0 FTE GS-05 Park Guide position, and performing duties and responsibilities concomitant to full-performance levels for that grade and position. These include serving as front line Interpreter at all park venues, special events, and off-site programs. Primary duties and responsibilities include staffing visitor contact/information desks at VC and *U.S.S. Cairo* Museum, operating the venues (audio/visual equipment, computers, phones, etc.), safeguarding exhibits, answering visitor inquiries about the park, the Vicksburg Campaign and the Civil War, and rendering other such visitor services as required. As primary point of contact she also serves as first responder to medical and other emergencies and for monitoring and maintaining a safe environment at staffed venues for visitors and employees. She also presents ranger talks, walks and programs for visitors, groups, and schools (both on and off-site); and engages in informal and roving interpretation throughout the park. Additional duties include serving as alternate park webmistress. She assists the Supervisory Park Ranger and Park Rangers in training and mentoring of Seasonal staff, as well as all other ancillary duties as assigned by the Superintendent, Chief of Operations, and/or Supervisory Park Ranger for Interpretation.

Note: As of the time of preparation/publication of this Annual Interpretive Plan (January 2013) we are promulgating staffing levels and duty assignments based on the assumption of continued funding at the 2009 level (last approved Federal budget). However, we are facing a number of budgetary uncertainties: 1.) All Federal agencies are currently operating under a Continuing Resolution in lieu of an actual approved budget, which expires in March, 2013. 2.) Although Congress and the Administration enacted a temporary compromise on the Budget Control Act of 2011 three hours before its deadline on December 31, 2012 (which mandated an across-the-board sequestration or budget cut of 8% - 10% for all Federal agencies), this, too, along with a required vote to raise the government's debt ceiling are all scheduled for March, as well. 3.) Even if all of the above comes to pass with positive results, park management has been advised by NPS management to formulate and be prepared to implement a three year fiscal plan that would affect a 5% budget cut from 2009 (current) levels. Based upon all of the above uncertainty, park management has formulated several different contingency plans, ranging from mild to draconian, to be implemented to meet whatever budget exigencies we face in the remainder of FY2013.

On the moderate end of the scale, i.e., if faced with a 1% - 2% cut for FY2013 (which is the minimum expected), we will lose funding for seasonals. From 2008 - 2011 this was funded from a separate funding source, NPS “Centennial” funding, in the amount of approximately \$109,000. This amount was split 50/50 between Maintenance and Interpretation & Visitor Services to fund our seasonal employees. This funding was combined with the ONPS base budget figure in 2011. A 1% - 2% cut in the ONPS base (as expected) will preclude using organic funds for seasonals, and alternative sources of funding are being sought at this time.

As over 80% of our facilitated programs (ranger walks, talks, demonstrations and other ranger-led programs) are done during the summer season when seasonal augmentation of staffing permits, any limitation or elimination of the seasonal workforce will result in a concomitant elimination of programming and outreach, and we will fall back on our core interpretive mission: the daily operation of the park’s Visitor Center and the *U.S.S. Cairo* and Museum.

In the event of sequestration or other adverse budget directives resulting in cuts to the park budget in excess of 2%, there are far more serious implications for Interpretation & Visitor Services. One of the tenets of the contingency plan developed by park management for a serious budgetary shortfall is to maintain permanent staffing levels and personnel, if possible. Even though both of my GS-04 Pathway trainees are slotted in and encumbering permanent FTE billets for GS-05 Park Guides, they are not permanent personnel and would be subject to layoff under a Reduction-in-Force (RIF). This would affect a 33% reduction of the Interpretation and Visitor Services Section of the park’s Operations Division. Even if we retrench to just the core mission of operating the two park visitor venues, such a personnel cut would preclude the sustainability of a seven day per week operation of both venues. Such a plan would require closing the remaining two park venues (Pemberton’s Headquarters and Shirley House have never been opened to the public other than during the summer when seasonal staff augmentation permitted) two days per week so that we could have remaining personnel all “off” those two days and be able to concentrate staff on the remaining five days.

Therefore, as a caveat, I point out that the staffing, personnel, duty stations and interpretive programming put forth and planned in this document are promulgated upon current funding levels (with the assumption of securing alternative seasonal funding), and any of the possible budgetary scenarios mentioned above will negate some or all of this Annual Interpretive Plan.

### **Seasonal Staffing:**

For FY2013, Vicksburg National Military Park hopes to employ six Seasonal employees between mid-May and the first week of August. Breakdown of positions and duties are as follows:

- **(4) GS-4 Seasonal Park Guides (Interpretation).** These individuals will be trained and mentored by permanent park Interpretive staff to operate the park’s two visitor

contact/information desks, as well as give ranger walks, talks and programs; and perform roving and informal interpretation at venues throughout the park.

- **(2) GS-4 Seasonal Park Guides (Living History).** These individuals will be trained and mentored by permanent park staff to perform Living History and Costumed Interpretation. They will give ranger talks and weapons demonstrations for park visitors, as well as perform roving and informal interpretation. They will assist park staff in oversight and supervision of Living History volunteers.

Note: As outlined above, we currently have no confirmed funding for four of the six proposed seasonal positions that were previously funded through Centennial/ONPS monies. The other two positions have always been funded through the park's Eastern National donation account. The latter is solvent and currently has enough for two seasonals in FY2013. In the past, these two positions have always been utilized in the Living History program, but a final decision on their assignment is being withheld by park management pending final budgetary disposition.

#### **Licensed Battlefield Guides:**

- Vicksburg National Military Park is one of only two of the National Military Parks (the other being Gettysburg) that utilize the Congressional legislation under 36 CFR 1, Part 25 providing authorization for individual contractors to be licensed through the park to act as battlefield guides.
- Currently (FY 2012), there are 20 Licensed Battlefield Guides serving Vicksburg National Military Park
- Statistically, the Guides are providing over 90% of all "field" interpretation, for the park – that being tours of the resource outside of the visitor contact stations – and handle the vast majority of school and group bus tours, as well as individual family car tours. Over the last several years, they have averaged over 900 car tours each year serving 2,000 visitors, and over 200 bus/group tours annually servicing over 7,500 visitors.

#### **Living History Volunteers & Reenactor Groups:**

- The biggest and longest running interpretive program at Vicksburg National Military Park is the Summer Living History Program. This program runs 40 hours per week from the first week of June through the end of July. Each year we average over 20 teenage volunteers who spend their summers doing costumed interpretation of Union and Confederate soldiers, giving formal and informal interpretive programs and weapons demonstrations with both Civil War musketry and artillery.

- Each year a number of Civil War reenactor groups come to the park to present Living History weekends. They bivouac on the historic battlefield and present visitors with a view of soldier's camp life, food and lifestyle, as well as interpretive programs and demonstrations of weaponry and maneuvers.
- During FY 2011, the Living History Volunteers and Reenactors donated over 5,000 hours to the park, and gave 432 demonstrations and programs to over 27,000 visitors.

\* The park Summer Living History program for 2013 is budget/personnel dependent.

## Resources and Interpretive Venues

Vicksburg National Military Park consists of an 1800 acre primary resource, which includes and preserves the remnants of Union and Confederate lines, entrenchments, and fortifications; the majority of state memorials, monuments and regimental markers; the Shirley House (only original surviving period structure within the main park); the park's Visitor Center (VC), and the *U.S.S. Cairo* and Museum.

In addition, there are several "detached" resources: Pemberton's Headquarters in downtown Vicksburg; Grant's Canal across the Mississippi River in Delta, Louisiana; and Louisiana Circle, South Fort and Navy Circle, which are small sites preserving locations of Union and Confederate artillery batteries along the traditional river bluffs and also providing overlooks of the modern main channel of the Mississippi River.

Each venue lends itself to interpretation of one or more of the park's interpretive themes, and is identified as such in the LRIP. Unfortunately, budgetary and staffing constraints preclude full implementation of the interpretive vision expressed in the LRIP inasmuch as there was no increase in staffing to operate Pemberton's Headquarters as a public venue, nor to open the newly-renovated Shirley House to the public on a regular basis. Also, at this time, there is no budget or plan to install exhibits or historic furnishings in either venue.

The current baseline for interpretive and visitor services is to provide adequate staffing for the visitor contact/information desks at the park's Visitor Center and at the *U.S.S. Cairo* and Museum. This seven day per week tasking encumbers the majority of permanent staff and staff-hours available; but constitutes the only ranger contact or professional services most visitors will have. This falls primarily on the one GS-5 Park Guide and two GS-4 Student Trainees, but both GS-9 Rangers spend a large amount of time on the information desks in addition to their other responsibilities. For purposes of interpretive staffing and utilization in FY 2012, we have the following goals and objectives:

### Visitor Center:

**Themes:** Orientation movie, fiber optic map, museum exhibits and "vignettes" represent all park interpretive themes.



**Staffing:** The VC is open seven days per week and is the park's primary visitor contact/information station. At minimum, one permanent interpretive Park Guide or Park Ranger will staff the VC Information Desk. During periods of heavy visitation, two staff members should be present, if available.

**Interpretive Goals:** In addition to providing information and visitor services at the desk, including answering visitor inquiries about the park, the Vicksburg Campaign and the Civil War, interpretive staff will utilize the new exhibit cabinets and floor space to prepare and show a number of different exhibitions on various park interpretive themes and special emphasis programs (i.e. Black History Month, Women's History Month, National Park Week, etc.).

### ***U.S.S. Cairo* and Museum:**

**Themes:** Military Experience (Navy, Technology); African-American Experience (Navy, Vicksburg National Cemetery); Commemoration (Vicksburg National Cemetery).

**Staffing:** The *U.S.S. Cairo* and Museum is the secondary visitor contact/information station for the park, as it is located halfway through the 16-mile tour road, and is open and staffed seven days per week. At minimum, one permanent Park Guide or Park Ranger will staff the museum information desk. When additional staffing permits, a second Park Guide or Ranger will conduct formal interpretive tours of the boat, and/or engage in roving interpretation on and around the boat.

**Interpretive Goals:** The interpretive goals here are twofold: First, to interpret, explain and facilitate visitor understanding of and connection with this very unique resource – the *U.S.S. Cairo* itself and the accompanying museum filled with salvaged artifacts from the boat. Secondly, as this visitor contact station is halfway through the tour road and therefore at the approximate halfway point of each visitor's park sojourn, to attempt to answer questions or provide any other interpretive service that might facilitate or enhance the visitor's comprehension, connection or experience.

### **The Shirley House:**

**Themes:** Civilian Experience (Shirley family); Military Experience (45<sup>th</sup> Ill. Infantry HQ, shebangs); African-American (Shirley family slaves, Reconstruction gang battle/lynching).

**Staffing:** There is no assigned or available permanent staff for Shirley House. But as the house just completed a \$1.6 Million renovation to the exterior and interior structure it is the emphasis of park management to have the building utilized for public events and open to the public whenever feasible. Inasmuch as 2012 is the first year that public access has been possible in over half a century, we have decided to "showcase" it when seasonal staffing so allows by having it open on Saturdays and

Sundays during the summer season. It will be assigned as a rotational staffing duty station and serviced by seasonal rangers working out of the VC.

*\* This venue is budget/personnel dependent.*

**Interpretive Goals:** Although the building has been extensively renovated, it is completely empty, containing no exhibits or historic furnishings. It is planned that the building will be opened for public tours, with Interpretive Rangers providing both roving and formal programs about the structure and those themes outlined above that relate to the venue.

### **Pemberton's Headquarters:**

**Themes:** Civilian Experience (Willis-Cowan House, surrounding historic neighborhood); Military Experience (used as command headquarters by Gen. Pemberton during siege).

**Staffing:** There is no assigned or available permanent staff for Pemberton's Headquarters. As in the case of Shirley House, we plan on having the building open to the public on Saturdays during the summer when seasonal staffing so permits.

*\* This venue is budget/personnel dependent.*

**Interpretive Goals:** Although the LRIP envisions Pemberton's Headquarters as the primary venue for presenting the Civilian Experience of Vicksburg during the antebellum period, siege and military operations, and Reconstruction; and also as a venue to highlight the African-American theme as civilians and as USCTs during Reconstruction through museum exhibits and historic furnishings, this role for the venue has been placed on hold indefinitely. With the exception of some rather lackluster portable exhibits, the public area (downstairs) of the structure is vacant. Therefore, the focus for our summer interpretation will be acting as a "docent" at PHQ on those Saturdays that the venue is open to the public, giving house tours, and informal/roving interpretation. Also, if seasonal staffing permits, PHQ will be utilized as a base to provide ranger walks of the surrounding historic Vicksburg neighborhood.

### **Living History Area:**

**Theme:** Military Experience (Weaponry, Soldiers' Lifestyle).

**Staffing:** The Living History Area (and Battery DeGolyer during July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday) is only utilized as an interpretive venue during the summer season when seasonal rangers and volunteers from local schools are on vacation and available. During the summer season, this venue is staffed eight hours per day, Friday through Tuesday.

*\* This venue is budget/personnel dependent.*

**Interpretive Goals:** The Living History Area is set up and utilized as the primary venue for VNMP's Summer Living History Program featuring costumed interpretation of the environment, clothing, lifestyle, skills and weaponry of the Civil War soldier. Activities at this venue include formal interpretive talks and demonstrations of Civil War artillery, using the park's reproduction "12 lb Napoleon" cannon, as well as Civil War musketry. Between demonstrations, staff and VIPs engage the visitors in roving and informal interpretation, and answer questions about displays, weaponry, lifestyle, clothing, etc.

## **Park Tour Stops:**

**Themes:** All LRIP park themes are represented, depending upon which tour stop utilized.

**Staffing:** Although utilized throughout the year by permanent staff for special interpretive events and anniversaries, i.e. first and second assault dates, ranger walks and talks at park tour road venues are only planned during the summer season as it relies on seasonal staffing.

*\* This venue is budget/personnel dependent.*

**Interpretive Goals:** Being able to provide formal interpretive ranger walks and talks at those venues located within the park where critical and/or significant events took place or emplacements/operations were extent are and have always been fundamental interpretive goals and objectives. It is, however, precluded by staffing constraints other than during the summer season when staff augmentation gives adequate personnel to provide such interpretive services. During the 2012 summer season we will schedule a combination of formal walks/talks and roving interpretation for the following venues along the part tour road: Battery DeGolyer, Jackson Road (Shirley House, Illinois Monument, 3<sup>rd</sup> Louisiana Redan), 2<sup>nd</sup> Texas Lunette, Fort Hill and Vicksburg National Cemetery. Programs will be on a staff rotational basis with the VC servicing the first three and the *U.S.S. Cairo* providing staff for the last two.

## **Appendix A:**

# **Annual Work Plan and Interpretive Programming**

The Annual Work Plan and Interpretive Programming section is a “working” document, as it is subject to change as special directives and/or initiatives are received from Washington (WASO) and Atlanta (SERO); or requests and interpretive “targets of opportunity” present themselves here in Vicksburg. Due to the anticipated frequent changes and updates, I feel it is better formatted as an appendix to the Annual Interpretive Plan, and yet stand on its own as a program and work plan for the section.

As stated previously, the interpretive program at Vicksburg National Military Park is stratified in its prioritization, as directed in its LRIP. First and foremost the Interpretive Section shall staff and operate the visitor contact and information desks at the Visitor Center and *U.S.S. Cairo* and Museum. Staff time and resources not consumed by this base priority will be allocated to special programs, outreach and projects as directed by park management.

### **Sesquicentennial Anniversaries and Events:**

For FY2013, in addition to the usual and customary interpretive programs and priorities Vicksburg continues its Sesquicentennial anniversaries of the various campaigns aimed at taking/defending the city. These include:

- 12/12/2012: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the *U.S.S. Cairo*.
- 12/26-29/2012: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William Tecumseh Sherman’s attempt to take Vicksburg and the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou.
- 3/14/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Yazoo Pass expedition.
- 3/29/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of Grant’s march south through Louisiana on the way to Vicksburg.
- 4/16/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of David Dixon Porter’s naval squadron running the gauntlet of the guns of Vicksburg.
- 4/17/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of Grierson’s Raid.
- 4/30/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grant’s army crossing the Mississippi at Bruinsburg.
- 5/1/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Port Gibson.

- 5/12/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Raymond.
- 5/14/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of Jackson to Grant.
- 5/16/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Champion Hill.
- 5/17/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Big Black River Bridge.
- 5/18/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grant's arrival at Vicksburg.
- 5/19/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grant's first assault against Vicksburg.
- 5/21/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of Union siege operations against Vicksburg.
- 5/22/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the second Union assault against Vicksburg.
- 6/07/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Milliken's Bend.
- 6/25/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the explosion and attack on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Louisiana Redan.
- 7/01/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> explosion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Louisiana Redan.
- 7/03/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the meeting between Generals Grant and Pemberton to discuss terms for the surrender of Vicksburg.
- 07/04/2013: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the surrender of Vicksburg to General Ulysses S. Grant and his Union Army.

For the purpose of observing and commemorating the above events we will attempt to partner with living history groups, volunteers and organizations, as well as the Old Court House Museum and other stakeholders with the intent of hosting, at best, living history weekend events for some of the anniversaries listed; and, minimally, to provide ranger talks and programs on or about the anniversary dates. We plan to partner with the U.S. Navy for a ceremony to be held at the *U.S.S. Cairo* marking the anniversary of its sinking on December 12, 2012; and possibly a talk, wreath-laying and small ceremony marking the anniversary of the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou and the casualties suffered (1,776 Union; 207 Confederate) on December 29, 2012.

In addition to the above anniversaries and observances, VNMP has been provided with special funding and staffing to produce a number of "signature" Sesquicentennial events. Although many of these are interpretive in nature, and would normally fall under the purview of the Interpretive and Visitor Services Section, due to the scope, complexity and



number of events they have been divided up and assigned to several park staff members to plan, coordinate and execute. I have listed these separately in Appendix B.

## **FY2013 Proposed Schedule of Cyclical Events and Programs:**

- **October, 2012:**
  - October 13: Collaborate with “Black & Blue” event, Natchez, MS.
  - October 18-19: Interpretive ranger to present and assist the park’s Education Coordinator at informational outreach booth on the grounds of the Battle of Raymond reenactment in Raymond, MS.
  - October 20-21: Ranger David Slay to be key speaker at the National USCT Reenactors Convention in Tennessee.
  - October 27: A “ranger-led” motorcycle tour of the Vicksburg Campaign trail from Port Gibson to Raymond to Champion to Big Black River and ending at the park in Vicksburg with narrative presentations at key locations along the tour route.
- **November, 2012:**
  - November 3: Program for the Ft. Rosalie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Jackson, MS.
  - November 10: A special “Shadows of the Past” program to be held in Vicksburg National Cemetery, where staff and volunteers will prepare and do first-person interpretive portrayals of actual individuals buried in VNC. We plan to portray civilians, USCT soldiers, a Union sailor, and soldiers from the Civil War, Mexican War, WWI and WWII.
  - November 12: Interpretive ranger to participate as Civil War soldier in the Vicksburg city Veteran’s Day observances and ceremony.
- **December, 2012:**
  - December 8-9: Naval Living History weekend and first person evening program at the *U.S.S. Cairo* and Museum.
  - December 12: 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program for the sinking of the *U.S.S. Cairo* to be held at the boat and museum.
  - December 29: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary program for the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou.
- **January, 2013:**
  - No special programs scheduled.
- **February, 2013:**
  - Black History Month; special exhibits, posters activities and programs scheduled.
  - February 9: Interpretive walk and program on the USCTs buried in Vicksburg national Cemetery and “Civil War to Civil Rights” program near podium in VNC used by Medgar Evers for Civil Rights speeches in 1960s.

- February 11-25: Two weeks of special programs at the park for every class in the combined Vicksburg-Warren School District sponsored by the Friends of Vicksburg.
- **March, 2013:**
  - Women's History Month; special exhibits, activities and programs.
  - March 3: Run Through History event.
  - March 15-16: Ranger David Slay to present at the Gettysburg College/Gettysburg National Military Park Civil War 150 Symposium in Gettysburg, PA.
  - March 23: Civil War Trust "Park Day".
- **April, 2013:**
  - Special Open House and tours of Pemberton's Headquarters every Saturday afternoon as part of Vicksburg's "Tapestry" celebration.
  - April 5-7: "Signature" Vicksburg Sesquicentennial event: Vicksburg Heritage Fair, downtown Vicksburg.
  - Ranger programs for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Running of the Gauntlet" by Adm. David Dixon Porter's U.S. Navy flotilla on the Mississippi River past the guns of Vicksburg.
  - April 20: VNMP Junior Ranger Day at *U.S.S. Cairo* and Museum.
  - April 20-28: National Park Week.
  - April 27: "Shadows of the Past" evening first-person interpretive walk and program.
- **May, 2013:**
  - May 1: Ranger programs for 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Port Gibson.
  - May 4-5: Vicksburg Sesquicentennial Living History Encampment and Weekend.
  - May 12: Ranger programs for 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Raymond.
  - May 12: Seasonal EOD.
  - May 13-17: Seasonal Classroom Training.
  - May 14: Ranger programs for 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fall of Jackson.
  - May 16: Ranger programs for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Champion Hill.
  - May 17: Ranger programs for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Big Black River.
  - May 18: Staff assist – "Trail of Honor", Jackson.
  - May 18: Ranger programs for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grant's arrival at Vicksburg.
  - May 19: Ranger programs for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Union assault against the Confederate defenses of Vicksburg.
  - May 20-24 Seasonal/Living History "OJT" venue training.
  - May 22: Ranger Programs for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the second Union assault on the Confederate defenses of Vicksburg.

- May 23: “Shadows of the Past” first-person interpretive program in Vicksburg National Cemetery.
- May 24: Staff & Volunteers; set out Memorial Day flags in Vicksburg National Cemetery.
- May 25-26: “Military through the Ages” special living history weekend event.
- May 25-26: Camel Corps programs.
- May 27: Memorial Day ceremony, VNC.
- May 28-June 1: Living History VIP training.
- **June, 2013:**
  - June (various dates): Reading/Education and Community outreach programs at all branches of the Hinds County Library system.
  - June 1: Living History goes “live” at Living History Area.
  - June 1: Shirley House and Pemberton’s Headquarters open for season.
  - June 7: Ranger programs for 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary program of the Battle of Milliken’s Bend.
  - June 18-23: Staff attending/presenting at National Underground Railroad Conference, Little Rock, AR.
  - June 25: Ranger programs for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the explosion/assault on 3<sup>rd</sup> LA Redan.
- **July, 2013:**
  - July (various dates): continuation of Hinds Library outreach.
  - July 3: Grand Illumination at VNMP.
  - July 3: Ranger Programs for 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of surrender talks between Grant and Pemberton.
  - July 4: 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Vicksburg Surrender program at the Old Court House in downtown Vicksburg.
  - July 4: Living History moves to Battery Degolyer for 149<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program of Vicksburg surrender.
  - July 15-19: Staff assist for VNMP Junior Ranger Day Camp.
- **August, 2013:**
  - August 3: Last day for Living History summer program.
  - August 3-4: Final days for open houses and programs at Shirley House and Pemberton’s Headquarters.
  - August 10: Final day for seasonals and summer programs.
- **September, 2013:**
  - No formal programs/events yet scheduled.

# Proposed Interpretive Program Schedule Summer 2013



	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
8:30AM	Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches			Life in the Trenches	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)
8:30AM - 4:30PM							Pemberton's HQ Open
9:00AM - NOON	Shirley House Open						Shirley House Open
9:00AM	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)			Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)	Artillery Program
9:00AM	Battery DeGolyer	Battery DeGolyer	Battery DeGolyer	Battery DeGolyer	Battery DeGolyer	Battery DeGolyer	Battery DeGolyer
9:30AM	2nd Texas Lunette Walk	2nd Texas Lunette Walk	2nd Texas Lunette Walk	2nd Texas Lunette Walk	2nd Texas Lunette Walk	2nd Texas Lunette Walk	2nd Texas Lunette Walk
9:30AM	Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches			Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches
10:00AM	Artillery Program	Artillery Program	Artillery Program			Artillery Program	Artillery Program
10:00AM	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program
10:00AM	Commemoration: Illinois Monument	Commemoration: Illinois Monument	Commemoration: Illinois Monument	Commemoration: Illinois Monument	Commemoration: Illinois Monument	Commemoration: Illinois Monument	Commemoration: Illinois Monument
10:30AM	VNC Cemetery Walk	VNC Cemetery Walk	VNC Cemetery Walk	VNC Cemetery Walk	VNC Cemetery Walk	VNC Cemetery Walk	VNC Cemetery Walk
10:30AM	Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches			Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches
11:00AM	Shirley House	Shirley House	Shirley House	Shirley House	Shirley House	Shirley House	Shirley House
11:00AM	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program
11:00AM	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)			Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)
11:30	Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches			Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches
11:30	Fort Hill	Fort Hill	Fort Hill	Fort Hill	Fort Hill	Fort Hill	Fort Hill
12:30PM	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)			Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)

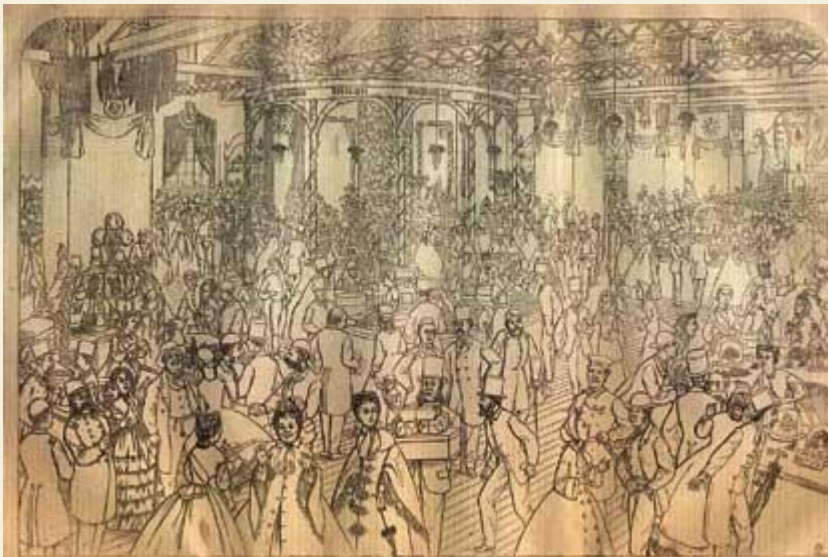
1:00PM	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program
1:00PM	Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches			Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches
1:00PM - 4:00PM	Shirley House Open						Shirley House Open
1:30PM	3rd Louisiana Redan/Siege Ops	3rd Louisiana Redan/Siege Ops	3rd Louisiana Redan/Siege Ops	3rd Louisiana Redan/Siege Ops	3rd Louisiana Redan/Siege Ops	3rd Louisiana Redan/Siege Ops	3rd Louisiana Redan/Siege Ops
1:30PM	Artillery Program	Artillery Program	Artillery Program			Artillery Program	Artillery Program
2:00PM	Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches			Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches
2:00PM	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program
2:30PM	VNC Cemetery Talk	VNC Cemetery Talk	VNC Cemetery Talk	VNC Cemetery Talk	VNC Cemetery Talk	VNC Cemetery Talk	VNC Cemetery Talk
2:30PM	Battery DeGolyer	Battery DeGolyer	Battery DeGolyer	Battery DeGolyer	Battery DeGolyer	Battery DeGolyer	Battery DeGolyer
2:30PM	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)			Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)	Weapons & the Soldier (Rifle)
3:00PM	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program
3:00PM	Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches			Life in the Trenches	Life in the Trenches
3:30PM	Commemoration: Illinois Monument	Commemoration: Illinois Monument	Commemoration: Illinois Monument	Commemoration: Illinois Monument	Commemoration: Illinois Monument	Commemoration: Illinois Monument	Commemoration: Illinois Monument
3:30PM	Fort Hill	Fort Hill	Fort Hill	Fort Hill	Fort Hill	Fort Hill	Fort Hill
4:00PM	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program
5:00PM.	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program	USS Cairo Boat Program



## **Appendix B:** **Vicksburg Sesquicentennial “Signature” Programs:**

Congress established Vicksburg National Military Park in 1899 to commemorate the campaign, siege, and defense of Vicksburg, and to preserve the history of the battles and operations conducted on the ground where they were fought. In 1990, Congress expanded the park's interpretive mandate to include the campaign and siege of Vicksburg from April 1862 to July 4, 1863, and the history of Vicksburg under Union occupation during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

From 2011 through 2015, the nation will be observing the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, and beginning in the Fall of 2012, Vicksburg National Military Park will initiate its commemoration of the campaign and siege of Vicksburg, culminating in several signature events planned for April and May of 2013. These will include:



Fair during the Civil War

*Harper's Weekly*

***The Vicksburg Heritage Fair (April 5-7, 2013)*** is an event that recalls the tent shows that traveled the South and Midwest in the 19th century, featuring 'hot topics' of the day, along with entertainment, music, dance, craft exhibitions, and theatre. The fair will spotlight downtown attractions such as Confederate General John C. Pemberton's Headquarters on Crawford Street, the Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation, and the Old Court House Museum. Crafts people, musicians, and dancers are being contacted to participate in the heritage fair. Part of the fair will involve a debate and discussion of Civil War topics by actors portraying significant persons involved in the war.



Decoration Day

***Memorial Day Weekend Siege and Commemoration (May 23-27, 2013)*** -Memorial Day weekend in 2013 was selected as the official commemoration of the Vicksburg Campaign. On Thursday evening, May 23, 2013, a program "Shadows of the Past" will be presented at the Vicksburg National Cemetery. This will be a program highlighting lives of veterans who are buried in the National Cemetery.

A series of open air concerts will take place in front of the Vicksburg National Military Park Visitor Center. Efforts are underway to schedule a US Navy Band concert with a theme revolving around the Civil War on Friday evening, May 24, 2013. On Saturday evening, May 25, 2013, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra has committed to a concert at the park. And then on Sunday evening, May 26, 2013, The Jackson State University Mass Choir will present a choral program. All of these concerts are free to the public.

Soldiers Through the Ages will be presented near the USS Cairo and Vicksburg National Cemetery. A timeline of the military will be presented through static displays and programs on Saturday, May 25, 2013 and Sunday, May 26, 2013.

On Monday, May 27, 2013, Vicksburg National Military Park will work closely with Veterans Groups and the Vicksburg community to assist with the Memorial Day parade as well as the Vicksburg National Cemetery wreath laying ceremony. The 41<sup>st</sup> US Army Band, Mississippi Army National Guard, has been contacted to participate in this event.

The US Navy played an important role in the Vicksburg Campaign. River gunboats like the USS Cairo were critical to the success of the US Navy. Special Boat Unit 22, part of the Navy's modern river forces, has been invited to establish a static display of a modern gunboat near the USS Cairo and possibly demonstrate the capabilities of their gunboat on the water.

The Iowa Memorial will be rededicated Memorial Day weekend, 2013. The State of Iowa passed legislation to fund the restoration of the Iowa Memorial for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vicksburg Campaign. Governor Terry Branstad has been invited to rededicate the monument. A date has not been set at this time.

Throughout the Memorial Day weekend, programs will be offered on the Civil War highlighting Civil War engineering and siege tactics. Programs on African-Americans and the Civil War exploring the roles of freeman, U.S. Colored Troops, and enslaved peoples will also be offered. There will also be ranger-led walks and talks during the weekend highlighting significant events during the Vicksburg Campaign.

On Saturday, May 4, 2013, and Sunday, May 5, 2013, Civil War reenactors will be stationed at numerous locations along the siege lines telling stories about the soldiers who fought and died for their respective causes.

During the month of May, 2013, wreaths honoring the soldiers who fought and died during the Vicksburg Campaign will be placed on their respective memorials. There were 28 Northern and Confederate states that were involved in the Vicksburg Campaign. Every day in May a wreath will be placed on a different state memorial and a proclamation will be read.

*Along the Campaign Trail* is a program that includes a dedicated team of interpreters to present outreach programs for communities, schools, and other interested organizations on the history of the campaign and siege. Beginning in January, 2013, five park rangers will travel along the campaign trail visiting schools, libraries, and civic organizations to present outreach activities and interpretative programs about the Vicksburg Campaign. Programs will also be offered at battlefield sites in Raymond, Champion Hill, Port Gibson and Milliken's Bend. These rangers will also get involved with the cultural and natural resources in the campaign area.

The program will also hold a Junior Campaign Stamp art contest for youth, and provide opportunities for visitors to learn about and document the important historical sites along the campaign trail using a specially-designed campaign 'passport' book developed to encourage people to follow Grant's route to Vicksburg and collect a passport stamp at each participating site.



Army Drill  
*Harper's Weekly*





School Room

*Harper's Weekly*

***Vicksburg National Military Park Youth Leadership Academy*** will provide an immersive experience for future leaders in both the mission and culture of the National Park Service and the 21st century relevancy of the Civil War. The academy will develop skills in a variety of disciplines related to historic preservation, natural resources management, education, and community leadership. Candidates will be young people, ages 16-20, who live or attend school in the Vicksburg-Warren County region. Students will work closely with park rangers who will mentor the students for the program.